

those who bring shame and dishonor to our cause of advancing equal justice for all Americans. I challenge our friends across the aisle to stop glorifying as 'heritage' a history of terror, injustice, violence, and racism represented by the persons whose statues are being removed and anyone who proudly waves a Confederate flag, like the one that disgraced the Capitol when it was paraded by domestic terrorists during the January 6 insurrection and attack on American democracy.

**HONORING ALCIA BELLE AS A
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Alycia Belle of Hollywood, California.

A compassionate leader, Alycia has selflessly devoted her time to organizations and programs that benefit the Hollywood community. She served as the Director of Development for Blessed Sacrament School, a Catholic School within the Jesuit tradition, which closed its doors in 2021 after being in operation for over a century. Prior to the school's closure, Ms. Belle raised \$941,000 for campus improvements and more than \$3.5 million for Jesuit Education that provided scholarships to families in Hollywood. She cofounded and implemented a program called Jesuit Alumni Mass, or JAM, to engage alumni from every Jesuit Institution and give them the opportunity to connect while encouraging them to become involved with their Jesuit community in Hollywood. Alycia also positively impacted the lives of children from the Alexandria House, which offers safe housing for women and children who are in the process of moving to permanent housing. The organization holds a special place in Alycia's heart, since she was raised by a single mother. Under Alycia's guidance, the Blessed Sacrament community welcomed several children from the Alexandria House.

Passionate about helping people and improving lives, Ms. Belle co-founded The Urban Sanctuary, which offers a safe environment within the sacred space of the Blessed Sacrament Church's nave, where individuals experiencing homelessness may seek guidance and rest. Alycia is also exploring sharing this model with churches that have underused space and homeless visitors.

Ms. Belle supports the Hollywood Police Activities League (PAL) and is grateful for their inspiring team-building programs and their dedication to youth. In addition to taking part in their events and encouraging families to participate in PAL's programs, she has hosted their meetings at Blessed Sacrament Church. Alycia also enjoys volunteering for Project Angel Food.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, Alycia had the whole Parish Community online with live streaming masses within a matter of days.

She also supported moving The Urban Sanctuary outdoors and worked with the Hollywood Food Coalition to provide meals to people in need. Furthermore, Alycia supported the Hollywood YMCA in implementing a shower program for unhoused individuals.

In addition to her extraordinary work in the non-profit arena, Alycia advocates for women-owned businesses. She owns Hollywood Handy Construction, Inc., which is a certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE). Alycia is married to her supportive husband, Jason, and together they have four children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Alycia Belle.

**EULOGIES FROM THE FUNERAL
MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
FOR ANN O'CONNELL LONG**

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Saturday July 17, 2021, I had the honor of attending the funeral service for a dear friend and remarkable woman, Ann O'Connell Long. Below are the eulogies made by her three loving children Deirdre, Maura, and Michael, as well as her great friend Suzanna Nolan. I was touched by these remarks and wish to include them in the RECORD for her beloved husband Michael Long and their family.

REMARKS BY DEIRDRE LONG ABSOLONNE

When I think of our mom, I think of faith, family, work, quiet strength, beauty, and good humor. Mom's faith was strong, but quiet. She didn't talk about it a lot—she simply lived it.

She grew up in Parkville with two pairs of shoes, and the support of a community that populated the rest of her life. She had happy memories of her childhood, including vacations at Indian Neck, during which, ever the planner, she would lay out her bathing suit and towel before going to bed each night. When the other children would ask what she was doing, she would explain that she was getting things ready for the morning.

She chose to stay close to her mom and attend Saint Francis School of Nursing, one step in her lifelong relationship with Saint Francis. While there, she met our dad, who became her best friend and partner of 52 years. She loved to joke that he married her for her money and she claimed at least some credit for making Mike Long a Democrat.

She stayed home with us when we were babies and, on my fifth day of first grade, she resumed work full time. Nursing was her vocation. Off she went at 7 am each day to help her family and the sick. She came home every night and put a balanced dinner on the table (a feat that now, as a working mom, I see as nothing short of miraculous). Every week for all those years, with the help of only her family, she cleaned our home top to bottom (usually while singing). She earned degrees and promotions along the way, while always making her family feel that she had plenty of time for us.

I am so fortunate that my relationship with Mom was uncomplicated. It was comfortable, joyful, and good. She was steadfast, understanding, occasionally mischievous, and always just plain fun to be with. She

really listened. And she was always open to new experiences, perspectives, and people.

She enjoyed gathering with family and friends, and I know she treasured her time with each of you. She liked design magazines, good books, cute dogs, babies, massages, making lists on index cards, and simple pleasures like sitting by the fire, in the yard, or on the beach. As everyone who has ever set foot in her home (or the home of someone she helped) knows, she made everything beautiful. True to form, she spent her final months helping all of us to be ready for this morning.

Perhaps most importantly, over all the years and through all of life's ups and downs, she joked and laughed, early often and easily.

REMARKS BY MAURA LONG SHEEHAN

When I think of my mom, I see her smiling face with that twinkle in her eye and it makes me smile too. She was warm and loving, often laughing, and had a no-nonsense way of making things happen.

When I think back to my childhood, I remember Mom singing along to John Denver when she was cleaning the house, baking chocolate chip cookies for our Cape Cod vacations, and highlighting textbooks while studying in bed at night. It wasn't until I was much older that I realized how impressive it was that she earned her bachelor's degree while raising three young children and earned her master's degree while working and raising three teenagers.

As a child, I had no idea who I was dealing with. As an adult, I realize how special she was. When I think about Mom's life and accomplishments, it amazes me that she did it all with such generosity, gratitude, and grace.

I know many of you here felt her generosity first-hand, whether it was kind words at just the right time, a homemade loaf of Irish bread, or a helping hand with your home improvements. At some point a few years ago I realized that whenever Mom showed up for a visit, after she breezed in with a smile, always bearing gifts of some sort, she would look me in the eye and ask "what can I do to help you?" Having a mother like that was a true gift.

As for gratitude, Mom found the beauty in everything around her and she knew how to have fun. She was full of joy and always seemed to have time to relax and make new friends. She made everyone feel special and she made it look easy. Sometimes when I would call her and ask what she was doing, she would laugh, tell me she had her feet curled up on the sheepskin and that she was busy, "cultivating gratitude". She laughed, but it worked.

Mom's grace, and her genuine kindness, were evident her entire life. She was a gracious hostess, and she truly enjoyed entertaining small groups of friends for lunch or dinner, having all her children and grandchildren under one roof every summer on Martha's Vineyard, and hosting extended family for tenderloin dinner (with those incredible mushrooms) each Christmas season.

Her grace, dignity, and strength were on full display this past year as she continued to warmly welcome friends and family for laughter-filled visits while quietly, through her example, preparing all of us for what was to come.

REMARKS BY MICHAEL B. LONG

When I think of Mom the first thing that comes to mind is laughter and the second is the things she taught me. I recall in particular a couple of sayings she would use and tell me that Grammy O had taught her. One is, "A place for everything and everything in its place," the other, "If ye can't say anything nice don't say anything at all."